

Amusements and Meetings To-Night.

ROBIN'S THEATRE—Miss Kellogg's Benefit.
BROADWAY THEATRE—"The Excelsior."
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—"Uncle Tom's Cabin."
NIBLO'S GARDEN—"The Cretan Dhuol."
PARK THEATRE—"The Cretan Dhuol."
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
STANDARD THEATRE—"Farquhar."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—"Celebrated Case."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—"Diplomacy."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2:30. Philharmonic Rehearsal.
ACADEMY OF MUSIC—4:30. Philharmonic Rehearsal.
CLINTON'S GARDEN—"The Great London Show."
NEW-YORK AQUARIUM—Day and Evening.

Index to Advertisements.

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BANKRUPT NOTICES—4th Page—3d column.
BOARD AND ROOMS—3d Page—4th column.
BURNING NOTICES—4th Page—1st column.
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INSTRUCTIONS—6th Page—2d and 3d columns.
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WANTED—MALES—6th Page—5th column.
WANTED—FEMALES—6th Page—5th column.
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Business Notices.

MALBY'S Norfolk Oysters fresh daily; also prime pickled oysters. Buying at headquarters is money saved.
DAILY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum.
NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$3 per annum.
NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$2 per annum.
 Terms, cash in advance.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1878.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The British Chancellor of the Exchequer has made his annual statement; he announces a deficit in the revenue, and proposes higher taxes. Prince Gortschakoff has used threatening language in regard to Roumania. Several Liberal members of the British Parliament are disposed to uphold the Government's foreign policy.

DOMESTIC.—A conference of Republicans in Congress with the National Committee has been held to concert united action for this year's campaign. It is thought that if Congress does not act soon, a remarkably favorable season for polar exploration may be wasted. Mr. Sherman has had another conference with the House Banking Committee as to resumption. Governor Van Zandt's majority in Rhode Island is nearly 3,200; the Legislature is largely Republican. The Virginia Court of Appeals has decided that coupons are receivable for all debts due the State. The New-York Assembly passed the Supply Bill to a third reading. Charges have been presented to the Governor against County Judge Abram P. Smith, of Cortland County. Holt & Bugbee, lumber dealers, of Boston, have failed through the forgery of J. W. Bugbee, the Western agent of the firm.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, considerable minor business was transacted; Mr. Matthews, Mr. Thurman, Mr. Hill and Mr. Conkling spoke on the Sinking Fund Bill. In the House the only especial business was the case of Doorkeeper Polk; after some discussion, a resolution to remove him was passed by 139 to 50; the duties of the Doorkeeper were devolved upon the Sergeant-at-Arms; Mr. Wood did not speak on the Tariff Bill, as expected.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—A dinner and serenade were given to Bayard Taylor last evening, and addresses were made by William Cullen Bryant, Mr. Taylor, Mayor Ely, Edwards Pierpont, George H. Baker, Samuel D. Babcock, George William Curtis, Dr. Bellows, W. D. Howells, Samuel B. Ruggles, and others. The Chamber of Commerce discussed important business questions yesterday. A temporary stay was granted in the Wood case, in which there are more than 100 defendants. Twenty-six students were graduated by the New-York Medical College for Women. John R. Cecil & Co., brokers, suspended with liabilities of about \$60,000. The semi-annual trade sale of books was begun. The Methodist Conference in New-York and Brooklyn continued their work. Testimony was taken about the cause of the Magenta explosion. Madame Restell's will leaves most of her property to her grandchildren. Gold, 101, 101, 101. Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the close, 99 cents. Stocks active and fluctuating, closing strong.

THE WEATHER.—Tribune local observations indicate a rainstorm, followed by clearing and cooler weather. Thermometer yesterday, 47°, 50°, 43°.

Mr. Wood's chance to make his speech slipped away from him yesterday, and he must suffer from mental suppression for three weeks or a month to come. When it is considered what a dreadful deal of misinformation Mr. Wood has accumulated within himself, it would seem to be the part of charity to allow him to print his remarks in *The Record* at once.

Polk is officially no more, and Mr. John G. Thompson is anxiously holding the knob of the House door. Mr. Thompson ought to measure himself now, and let us know how big a man is who is Doorkeeper and Sergeant-at-Arms rolled into one; and then how much bigger he is than a mere Doorkeeper; and if a mere Doorkeeper was a "bigger than"—but this is getting too complicated.

A very little delay in Congress may imperil the success of the Howgate Expedition this year. The bill making an appropriation for this object has been favorably reported upon in the House, and the same action has been taken by the Senate Naval Committee. There will be no excuse for Congress if the matter is neglected till too late to take advantage of a season that is likely to be exceptionally favorable to Arctic voyages. A tide of the time that has been wasted over Doorkeeper Polk would secure the entry to the frozen zone.

No citizen is so rich or so prominent, of course, that he must be exempt from a call to public duty, and when Mr. John Jacob Astor is summoned on a jury, he is clearly bound to go. But as a great many people, whose time is not so valuable, spend a vast deal of ingenuity in evading jury duty, even abstaining from voting in order to do so, it may be as well to commend his example to them. It might also be interesting to know, considering the income of this particular jurymen, just what the time was worth which was spent in helping to try a three thousand dollar case.

It appears from the British diplomatic correspondence that the Czar is greatly irritated at the conduct of Roumania. Prince Gortschakoff, speaking for his sovereign, has gone so far as to threaten that he will take Bessarabia by force if the Roumanians refuse to surrender that depopulated territory. In case Roumania protests

against the free passage through her territory secured in the San Stefano Treaty, the Russian Chancellor says that the Czar will order the occupation of Roumania and the disarmament of her army. These threats leave Roumania no option but submission. With Russia on one side of her, and the new Bulgaria at the other, she will be crushed if she attempts to thwart the Russian will.

The dinner to Mr. Bayard Taylor, last night, at Delmonico's, was conspicuous for the unusually brilliant company drawn together, and the unusually excellent quality of the after-dinner oratory. In both respects it fairly takes rank with the dinner to Charles Dickens on the occasion of his last visit, and the two will henceforth be long associated in the memory of guests and the public. Mr. Bryant was specially felicitous as presiding officer, and the Committee on Arrangements managed all the details with great skill. No nomination to a foreign post for many years past has been received with such general acclaim; and certainly New-York has never exhibited to an outgoing Minister such signal proofs of generous regard.

There is hope, it seems, that the country will not be worried for some time to come by Congressional agitation of the finances. Our Washington dispatches state that, although the bill to repeal the Resumption Act will doubtless be called up at the next meeting of the Senate Finance Committee, a marked change of sentiment has taken place in that body. Several members who have before been counted among the supporters of the bill, are now opposed to it, believing that the country should have a rest from currency legislation. This is good news, which will be better when it is confirmed by the action of the Committee. The country has had already all the Congressional jolting of the finances it can afford. The silver war cost millions of dollars, robbing the rich and the poor alike. What the country wants now is to be let alone, and for that small favor it will be profoundly grateful.

One of the queerest of all the contests in the Surrogate's Court is that begun yesterday. The will of the late Samuel Wood, founding a Musical College, is disputed by his cousin, Samuel A. Wood, who makes a strange claim. He declares that the testator and his brother, Abraham Wood, having inherited equal portions of a large estate from their brother, and being without children, agreed that the one dying first should leave his property to the survivor, and that the survivor should bequeath the whole to the present contestant, Samuel A. Wood. The first brother who died, Abraham, fulfilled his share of the compact, and duly willed his property to Samuel; but Samuel, being influenced against his cousin, repudiated his part of the bargain, and leaves his money to found a Musical College. This betrayal of a promise the cousin now asks the courts to rebuke, not exactly on the ground of fraud, but of "mental incapacity." It will be interesting to see what the Surrogate will have to say to this extraordinary case, where the chief witnesses would need to be consulted by metemorphosis. But it does not seem inconsistent with propriety to remark that the contestant should have joined the ghost of Abraham Wood with himself as a co-plaintiff.

The British public are afforded a foretaste of the cost of war, in the budget as explained last night in the House of Commons. Mainly on account of the war preparations the Chancellor finds that he expended in the last fiscal year \$13,365,000 more than he received. He increases the taxes for the current year, but he calculates that its revenue will also fall short of the expenditure, so that he will begin the next fiscal year \$7,533,000 in debt. Of course if there be war the public burdens will be enormously increased. In order to raise more money the Chancellor adds 2 pence on the pound to the income-tax and 4 pence per pound weight to the tobacco duty, while each British dog is to yield 7½ shillings, instead of 5, unless it is under six months of age, when the animal is exempt. The increase in the tobacco duty concerns this country, inasmuch as it may diminish consumption. At present the United Kingdom consumes about 49,000,000 pounds of tobacco, paying duties of from 3 to 4½ shillings per pound. An addition of 4 pence to these rates may be more than the British smoker is disposed to pay at a time of high taxes and low wages. If so, we must be prepared to export less of the fragrant weed to the United Kingdom.

THE SECRETARY AND HIS CRITICS.

Secretary Sherman seems little less than criminal to some persons, because he does not take pains to make war upon Congress. Undoubtedly he might have presented his opinions in such form that there would have been a majority of two-thirds against him in either House. But this is precisely what the President has done in some other matters. It has not been difficult for him to make members of Congress feel that advice was almost impertinent. His repelling manner of treating suggestions, even more than the appointments he has actually made, has excited antagonism. It has seemed best to Secretary Sherman to confront and cripple the opponents of resumption, even where they are strongest. It is the general opinion that the frank statement of his purposes has put an end to legislation in the direction of inflation. Does not Mr. Sherman deserve credit for what he has done?

He is criticised most sharply by men who have small interest, or none, in the public credit. But his efforts are warmly appreciated by those who have the very greatest interest in the maintenance of public faith. To them, it does not seem that Mr. Sherman has surrendered any principle, or in any respect betrayed the public honor. He has done his best to make men who were opposed to resumption believe that resumption is necessary and entirely practicable, and in this he has not been unsuccessful. It is not claimed that he has proposed to do anything without authority of law. Indeed he has frankly asked for specific authorization of acts which he believes fully warranted by existing laws. If his advice is mistaken, it should be contrary to the public faith or public policy, but he cannot fairly be blamed for giving such advice as seemed to him most likely to be effective.

Some bankers are disposed to treat the Secretary harshly. It happens that plans have been proposed by them which the Secretary has not found it judicious or lawful to accept, and the public impression is not unnatural that these bankers would have been much more favorable, if the methods adopted by the Secretary had been such as to give them special advantages. What the country wants is to get back to the specie basis at the least possible cost. Mr. Sherman's duty is to bring the country back to specie payments with as little shock, sacrifice and disturbance as possible. It is not

his duty to consult the interests of bankers only, or of debtors only, or of creditors only; his first duty is to enforce the law, and, within the limit of his discretionary power, he ought to consult the interests, not of any class, but of the whole country. It does not appear that Mr. Sherman has failed in this respect. He has sought to get something done, and to prevent the doing of mischief. Many other men might have proposed much more, and accomplished nothing. Many others would have presented resumption in its most offensive light to those whose votes were needed, and would thus have intensified opposition to resumption in every form. But Mr. Sherman has done the best that it was possible for him to do under existing circumstances, in respect to advice to Congress, and so far he certainly deserves high praise.

THE TEXT OF THE TREATY.

When Fund, the great Turkish statesman who opposed the Russian pretensions which led to the Crimean War, was approaching his end, he called for writing materials and traced, with trembling hands, a political testament for his master. "When this writing is placed before the eyes of your Majesty," he wrote, "I shall not be in the world. You can, therefore, listen to me without distrust, and you should imbue yourself with the great and grievous truth that the Empire of the Osmanlis is in danger. An intestine 'dissension in Europe and a Bismarck in Russia, and the face of the world will be changed.' The 'intestine dissension in Europe' broke out in the next year, when Germany was placed under overwhelming obligations to Russian diplomacy, while France was prostrated and a renewal of the alliance between the Western Powers was rendered impossible. The Hohenzollern who telegraphed to the Czar from Versailles on the day the peace was signed, 'Prussia will never forget that it owes to you that the war has not taken extreme dimensions,' has shown his gratitude by enforcing the neutrality of Austria, while Russia was exhausting the military resources of Turkey. Ignatieff, moreover, has been as successful in conducting the negotiations of San Stefano as Bismarck himself was in dictating his own conditions of peace after Sedan. The empire of the Osmanlis is now falling to pieces, and the face of Southeastern Europe has been changed. Fund's political testament reads like a prophecy fulfilled.

While the main outlines of the Treaty of San Stefano have been clearly traced in our cable dispatches, the full text, which has been received this week by mail, shows how complete and overmastering is the triumph of the Northern and Southern Slavs. Ten years ago, when Mr. Katkoff's journal was regarded as the first power in the Empire after the Czar, three groups of nationalities were described as gradually forming under the pressure of Ottoman tyranny. These were the Roumanian, the Hellenic and the Slavie groups, and under the protection of the Northern Slavs they were to be welded together just as the Germanic States were united under the leadership of Prussia. But when we scan the articles of the treaty we find that the Slavs are getting nearly all the plums. The independence of Roumania is recognized and the way is opened for the presentation of an uncertain claim for an indemnity which will have the force of a third mortgage on the Porte, all the prior liens being held by Russia. By the exchange of a strip of Bessarabia north of the Danube for the marshes and sand dunes of Dobruja, the principality will lose a good deal of her own pudding and get in return a very poor plum. So far as Crete, Epirus and Thessaly are affected by the treaty, the Greeks are thrust aside with lukewarm assurances of reorganization on a new basis, concerning which Russia is to be consulted. While the Rouman is shabbily treated and the Greek is snubbed outright, the Southern Slav profits by the success of his Northern brother in the field and in the Cabinet. The heroic mountaineers of Montenegro and the rustic pig-keepers and cattle-drovers of Servia have won their independence and enlarged their frontiers, and in Bulgaria and Roumelia are laid the foundations of a great State with a long coast-line on the Black Sea and a seaport on the Aegean; and even in Herzegovina and Bosnia arrears of taxes are to be remitted, and refugees and sufferers are to be indemnified and relieved. From the Iron Gates to the suburbs of Adrianople and Salonica the ambition of the Slavie races has been stimulated, while the interests of the Roumanians and the Hellenic element have been sacrificed; and the way is opened under the treaty for race dissensions and anarchy. We are not attempting to justify the attitude of the British Foreign Office, but are merely pointing out the inevitable tendencies of the conditions of peace.

We have been surprised, moreover, in reading the text of the treaty, article by article, to find Russian commissioners appearing at every turn of the process of pacification and reconstruction. A Russian commissioner is to assist the representatives of Turkey and Servia in arranging the frontier line; a Russian is to be associated with a similar commission in settling the claims of Mussulman landowners; another Russian commission, in connection with a colleague from Vienna, is to settle all questions which Montenegro and the Porte cannot regulate in common; an assembly of Bulgarian deputies is to organize the new principality under the supervision of a Russian commissioner, and the introduction of new regulations and the supervision of their execution will be intrusted for two years to an Imperial Russian Commissioner, who is to have fifty thousand troops under his command as a permanent army of occupation; and numerous commissioners are authorized to verify Mussulman land claims, to dispose of State property and to sell unclaimed estates, but in every instance they are to act under the supervision of members of the Russian Civil Service. If the new principality is not converted into an outlying Russian province within two years, it will be because there is no administrative faculty in commissions supported by troops. While it is possible that as soon as the troops are withdrawn Bulgaria may combine with Roumania, Servia and Montenegro to resist pressure from the North, and that Europe may ultimately gain a vigorous nationality, it is far more likely that under the manipulations of the commissioners and the oppression of military force it will be reduced to the level of a Russian dependency. With the text of the treaty before us, we are not surprised that the opposition to the free exercise of the conqueror's belligerent rights is increasing on the Continent as well as in Great Britain. As the European Powers allowed Russia to overthrow Turkish dominion in Bulgaria and in the larger part of Roumelia, they cannot complain if she strives to reorganize the provinces in her own mechanical and repressive way. Noble and gen-

erous as her efforts have been to deliver the Christian subjects of the Porte from oppression, and to mark out a prosperous future for them, the regeneration and reconstruction of the Balkan Peninsula ought not to have been delegated to a nation whose religious instincts are so intolerant and whose administrative methods are so defective. Even if an army of occupation were not to remain for two years so near Constantinople, the Great Powers might well stand back in apprehension while those bleeding and crushed provinces were being hammered into shape according to the Russian plan.

The Treaty of San Stefano, moreover, without furnishing a basis for the permanent pacification of the East, will hasten Turkish decadence. The popular institutions which Midhat attempted to introduce have been swept away, and the Government is impoverished and powerless. A correspondent of a London journal picturesquely describes the old walls of Stamboul as mainly held together by the ivy which grows over them; and then adds that the Sultan's throne is kept erect at the present moment by the parasites which have grown around it. It will not be long before it will crumble into ruins, and wise old Fund's words all come true.

OUR PATENT SYSTEM.

The bill reported by the Senate Committee on Patents is far superior in most of its provisions to the measures which have been previously brought before Congress. Those measures were, in general, destructive. Some were aimed at the revenue of the Patent Office, that bureau enjoying the proud distinction of being self-supporting. Others would have destroyed the value of a patent, either by limiting its powers, or by making it obtainable without research as to its originality. The last was the favorite form of attack. Its argument proceeded on the ground that at present the validity of a patent, if seriously contested, is ultimately determined by our courts. Since they must be appealed to for final decision, why go through intermediate steps at the Patent Office? The proposition was to issue a patent to every applicant who paid the regular fees; and then let him substantiate his claim, as best he could, in a law suit. No doubt, such an arrangement would bring money to the legal profession, and would greatly diminish the labors of Patent Office examiners. In another form, this scheme proposed to give a patent to the first applicant, without asking whether he was the inventor, if no patent had previously been granted in this country on the invention. Fortunately, none of these bills ever became law. They were based on a misapprehension of our patent system. Its chief excellence is in the security it affords to a poor inventor. Rich ones can take care of themselves under almost any system.

With the exception of a single clause, the new bill mostly seeks to build up more securely the rights of inventors. That clause would give a large loophole for people to crawl through who use inventions without paying the patentees. It is so obviously unlike the rest of the bill in principle, that it could only have passed the committee by an oversight. When this clause is removed from the bill, it will deserve a hearty support from inventors, although, perhaps, many of them will object to the provision requiring \$50 to be paid every five years to maintain a patent. There may be cases in which that would work hardship; these should at least be fairly considered, and probably the fee proposed is two or three times larger than needed for the purpose. But the new bill, as a whole, exhibits an admirable public sentiment on the subject of patents. It is the substantial result of much inquiry. Considering that the number of persons who would like to use inventions without paying for them, must be at least as large as the army of inventors, it is an exceedingly encouraging sign that only two petitions were presented to the committee asking that all our patent laws be swept away. It shows a general recognition of the right of property in the creations of the mind, and may be fairly set against the evidence that the theories of communism are making headway among our people.

Arguments of great force were brought before the committee in support of our patent system. Some of these took a wide scope. It was shown, for instance, that in no preceding age of civilization had the inventive genius of men been so wonderfully stimulated as at present. Tracing the growth of invention, we find it most rapid where the patent system has been most complete. Differences of race or of political institutions will not explain this fact. Switzerland, long the freest country in Europe, is far behindhand in the march of invention; the simplest explanation is that she does not protect the inventor. The United States is in advance of Great Britain in these matters, chiefly if not solely because patents are cheaper here, and are granted to the originator instead of to the mere introducer of a novelty. Almost every intelligent foreigner who visited the Centennial Exhibition and wrote upon the subject, attributed the advances in our great industries to the fostering of ingenuity by our patent laws. Other countries are now basing improvements in their patent systems upon our own. To those persons who still think, notwithstanding such evidence, that the progress of invention here is solely due to National characteristics and the peculiarities of the American mind, another argument might be offered, which was not presented to the committee. It is well known that the art of medicine has not kept pace in improvement with other arts and sciences during the century. Its novelties, outside of those contributed by the sister art of surgery, are few. Of those novelties some were originally patented inventions; in fact, there is a considerable list of prescriptions in the pharmacopoeia that are derived from such sources. But the rules by which the regular practitioners have bound themselves, forbid them to patent their inventions. Alongside of this is the fact that they rarely invent. It seems natural to suppose that the two facts bear the relation of cause and effect. It is certainly a consequence that the quacks, as distinguished from the regular profession, devise a vast number of fairly successful inventions, under the stimulus of our patent laws; and to that extent they drive the genuine physicians out of their proper field.

MORE VINEGAR WANTED.

Another Great Combination of Dramatic Talent, consisting of one small boy who plays Hamlet, recently disbanded in the usual manner, by a strike of the carpenters and a clamor of unpaid actors at the box-office window for a share in the receipts of thirteen square tickets and 150 free passes. How many of the play-houses have presented a similar performance since the season began? There was the young gentleman from Harvard, who exhibited a wild Western drama of his own construction until he had spent all

his father's spare cash; whereupon the mutinous and hungry troupe dispersed with much hard language and fist-shaking, while a sad-eyed public, twelve strong, went home wondering what could have tempted it to attend. There was the Great Patriotic Enterprise, which came to a sudden and mortifying close because there was not money enough in the till to pay for the music. There was the Grand Wagner-Meyerbeer-Italian-German-Opera-Combination, which amid much wrangling and recrimination exploded itself with debts, and suddenly vanished at a quarter past 1 o'clock in the afternoon, while a crowd of deluded ladies were accumulating at the door in search of Rienzi. But why should we extend the melancholy record? The story of theatrical enterprises in New-York gives us every season fresh cause to wonder at the simplicity of a part of the public, and the daring of speculators who trade upon it.

A few years ago, when the Academy of Music was always occupied by bankrupt opera companies, a strike of the chorus used to be the ordinary method of winding up the season; and as Mr. Max Maretzek, after a brief period of eclipse, regularly came back brisk and cheerful to the conductor's chair and beat time with inimitable nonchalance while a new troupe sang and fiddled its way to the devil, the reckless youth of America conceived an odd sort of liking for him as one who had probably been ruined oftener, and minded it less, than any other manager in existence. But there had to be an end of that sort of thing after a while; the condition of the lyric stage sank lower and lower; and we have not yet recovered from the depression and discredit of those dark ages of makeshift and disaster. On the dramatic stage, as the opportunities are greater, the frequency of headlong presumption is greater likewise, and were there not certain houses which resolutely uphold the standards of fair dealing and conscientious management, we might look for a speedy decline in the good repute of the business, and a consequent decay of the entire profession. Whenever a fool or a pretender is allowed to strut a few nights on the metropolitan boards, and then run away with the box-office receipts, it there happens to be any, or leave his scene-shifters penniless if there be none, a great injury is done to honest actors and to genuine theatrical managers, and through them a wrong is done to art.

It seems to us that the press hardly does all that it might toward the correction of the growing evil to which these remarks refer. The critic has a higher office to fulfill than reporting on the incidents of a performance as they come under superficial review, or writing as pleasantly as he can about every new show to which his attention is invited. It is his privilege to point out the difference between solid merit and humbug, not merely in the actual representation of a play, but in the very spirit and conception of a theatrical enterprise. The bane of a great deal of our criticism is excessive good nature. The pestilent adventurer in art is often treated with as much tenderness as the struggling and deserving artist; not, perhaps, that we puff him up with false praise, but we carelessly let him pass with a few words of civil but mischievous general notice. It is time to drop the cooling system of criticism. Let us put a little more vinegar in the ink.

The Wool tariff appears to have excited the liveliest interest in England, where it is regarded as calculated to throw open the American market to British products. The opinions of English trade journals, collected in a timely pamphlet published by the American Iron and Steel Association, show that the British manufacturers await eagerly the promised reduction to revive the competition which has languished since the panic of 1873. One leading journal says that America cannot make iron as cheap as British ironmasters will make and sell it before they retire from the competition. Another observes that a reduction of even 10 per cent in the duties would make a great change, and open up markets which were once "a veritable El Dorado." These admissions confirm the opinions of our manufacturers as to the general effect of the proposed tariff, and should awaken further vigilance in regard to it.

The resurrection of abortionists and old scandals seems to be the favorite work of a certain class of metropolitan journals just at this time. Editors who, investigate such foul rumors as the revival of the Beecher scandal and the escape of Restell, only to find them untrue, and still publish columns about the unsavory topics, must entertain complimentary opinions of the intelligence and refinement of their readers.

"With devotion's visage, and pious action, we do sugar o'er"—things that easily need a covering. Among the pieces of property which the woman, whose recent suicide startled the town, thought important enough to mention in her will, were "the Bibles and Bible stand."

POLITICAL NOTES.

Mr. Blair is having a roaring good time, and nobody will be hurt.

Every time the cover is taken off the secrets of the "reform" campaign of 1876 a new and worse odor escapes.

Headricks has figured out for himself a sure thing for the next Democratic Presidential nomination. But the same figures have led him more than once before.

The Rhode Island Democrats conducted their recent campaign solely on the issue of "fraud." The result was an increase of last year's Republican majority of 451 to 1,391. The beautiful working of a boomerang was never more perfectly illustrated.

Uncle William Allen says his nephew Thurman has turned his rear on the corn-fields of Ohio, and is no longer in the true Democratic fold. This seems slightly inaccurate. Mr. Thurman turns about so often that his rear 'toward the Ohio corn-fields' more than one-third of the time.

Montgomery Blair says he is not yelling fraud on judicial grounds for his own sake. He is working for 18,000,000 of people. And yet in that enormous multitude, for whom Mr. Blair makes himself so gratuitously ridiculous, Jere Black is the only conspicuous man who does not salute him with the terse but comprehensive injunction: "Oh, shut up!"

The Hon. Galusha A. Grow is a man honored in his own community evidently, for the delegates to the Pennsylvania Republican Convention from Susquehanna County, where he resides, have been instructed to vote for his nomination for Governor. There are many other indications of similar popularity in various parts of the State, and it may turn out presently that Pennsylvania is to elect the first fortune of securing so good a man for its Governor.

A Southern member of Congress has put the question of the President's title on the right basis. The question now, he says, is not whether Hayes was elected or not. He might confess judgment to not being elected under the forms of law which the Constitution provides for electing a President, and yet his title would be secure. The question is, did Congress pass an unconstitutional act in passing the Electoral Bill. Congress cannot refuse to uphold his title without insulting its own intelligence and repudiating its own act. Any man but an irresponsible partisan can see the unanswerable truth of this statement.

The most remarkable Presidential nomination to date comes from Georgia. It is no less than a suggestion that the Almighty is preserving Alexander H. Stephens as President of the United States. It is claimed that his miraculous restoration from the very brink of the grave can only be explained on this ground. A Solid South is promised in his support, and we are told it would be a glorious day for the country when he should take his seat in

the White House. If he were nominated, which is simply a preposterous supposition, he would have a Solid North against him to balance the Solid South in his favor, and the "glorious day" aforesaid would be indefinitely postponed. Mr. Stephens is one of the best men in the Southern States, but he stands no more chance of being nominated for the Presidency than David Dudley Field.

There is a faint reason to hope that Voorhees has ended his own political career by that bad speech of his at Terre Haute. His great strength has always been with the Greenback element of the Indiana Democracy. He has toiled to that faction and advocated its claims at Washington. By going now into its greatest stronghold and speaking in favor of the Democrats as better than the Nationals, who have afforded all the Greenbacks, he has mortally offended his best friends. They charge him with placing his Greenbackism second to his Democracy, and swear they will have no more to do with him. If they stick to their word they will defeat him, and thus give a better reason than any one ever hoped they could give for their existence as a party.

PERSONAL.

Thomas Jefferson's birth-place, "Shadwell," in Virginia, is about to be sold at public sale.

Miss John Taylor Johnston is said to possess an autograph letter of Byron's, referring to "The Vampire," the book which he was at one time supposed to have written.

State Senator Moffett, of Virginia, the inventor of the bolliester, is described as a middle-aged bachelor of excellent attainments and agreeable appearance. He is, moreover, a good speaker, and an accomplished physician.

Mrs. Hayes has been visiting Cincinnati, and has aroused Western enthusiasm. She "was in the best and happiest spirits," says one poetic writer, "and the impression she left upon those who met her for the first time was a pleasant surprise, and a pleasant anticipation."

Miss Georgina Hogarth, sister-in-law of the late Charles Dickens and ex-trix of his estate, proposes, with the help of his eldest daughter, to edit a collection of his letters. Mr. J. T. Fields asks that Americans possessing any letters from Dickens likely to be of public interest, will send them to Miss Hogarth, who will copy and carefully return them.

Mr. F. D. Millet, of Boston, war correspondent of the *Daily News*, of London, has received from the Czar both of his decorations as the Czar of St. Anne and St. Stanislas. That of St. Anne is the highest decoration given to any correspondent, and was given by Mr. Millet during the passage of the Balkans; he was the only correspondent who went through with General Gourko.

There are said to be still eleven or twelve survivors of the men who defended Stonington from the British attack in 1814. Nearly all of them are living there, the two oldest being John Bennett, aged ninety, and Colonel E. A. Smith, aged ninety-two. Henry Lewis, died last Friday, in the town he defended, and in which he was of late the oldest person; his age being ninety-two. The king of Italy lately caused his personal thanks to be conveyed to Bayard Taylor for the poem published in *THE TRIBUNE* at the time of his father's death. It is an interesting bit of news, that, at a concert to be given in Steinway Hall early next week, in aid of the movement among Italians in this city to procure a fund for a statue to Victor Emmanuel, this poem is to be recited by Clara Morris.

"Colonel Sellers" very properly resents the story, which has gained circulation in some of the papers, that he was a deserter from the army of a divorced wife of John T. Raymond, has recently married a physician in Philadelphia. He says it is either a mistake in names, or a wilful calumny. He is no such Raymond—as everybody who is acquainted with the genial and accomplished gentleman knows without being told.

General Grant's reception in Athens is described in a modest way, by an Athenian writing to the *Editor of The Times*. "On the pier of the Piræus," he says, "there were waiting for him the Mayor of Piræus, with the Council, who welcomed him on the part of their fellow citizens as the representative of the generous people who had assisted the Greeks during the great war of independence against the Turks. The band of the town was playing all the time the American National hymn. The great crowd cheered very heartily your great citizen. Then the Mayor offered the General and his companions his carriage, and they all drove to the station, where a special train was waiting for them. At the station was waiting myself, as my name was on the list of the invited guests, and white and blue (the Greek colors), and who, as soon as Mrs. Grant descended the steps of the carriage, offered her a bouquet of violets, among which thirteen roses, the symbol of your mighty Republic, were shining. Mrs. Grant was highly pleased at the happy idea—as it has been called by your Minister, General Read—and she most affectionately embraced the little girl. As soon as the train started the people cheered again, and in the midst of the cheering the Mayor of Athens addressed the General in the name of the Athenians, and expressed his kind feelings and wishes of himself and Nation toward the Greeks. The numbers of the crowd were so great that they could not drive to the New-York Hotel, where an immense crowd was waiting to pay their respects to the guests of Greece."

GENERAL NOTES.

Maine has had a marvel of "murder will out." Fifty years ago, Isaac Blake, of Atkinson, returning from a trip to New-Brunswick, where he had been trading in cattle, stopped, with \$1,500 in his possession, at a tavern in Glenburn. He was never seen afterwards, but it was strongly suspected that he had been murdered. No investigation was made, and the excitement soon died away; but a man at Milo, who was just died, at the age of seventy-five years, confessed with his latest breath that he was the murderer. He had been induced to do the deed by a promise of a reward of \$1,000, and it is possible that his confession may have been a mere freak of an impaired intellect.

Wonderful are the ways of compromisers. A Boston merchant was recently informed by a Western correspondent that certain persons were on the way to his city to try to effect a compromise of their indebtedness; that they could pay 100 cents on the dollar, and have \$25,000 left. "If you mean East," read the letter, "will compromise with men that can pay in full at 50 or 75 cents on the dollar, you will simply make all Western merchants rascals, and we will all compromise with our creditors in order to compete with our neighbors." The merchant who received this letter thought it for the interest of honest trading to put it into the newspapers, and so perhaps the little scheme was foiled; but it may do no harm to mention it here. Possibly some debtors may try this way of compromise in this city.

The new plan of keeping the Princeton students in order, propounded at the Alumni dinner, is to put every one of them, upon matriculation, under bonds to keep the peace. Nothing has come of the late trouble more mortifying than this proposition. Outside of colleges, men are bound to keep the peace only after they have given sufficient evidence of an intention to break it. The Princeton plan, if it is adopted, will be based upon the presumption that young men go to the college intending to be turbulent and defiant of necessary discipline. It is doubtful whether bonds to keep the peace could have much effect in restraining those who are likely to disregard the restraints of decency, who are lacking in self-respect, and who care nothing for the mortification which they may occasion their families. However, if the experiment is to be made, it is well that it should be made in the only persons and property might thus be atoned for in the only way possible—by a pecuniary mulct.

When a newspaper has done anybody gross injustice, and its conductors have reasonable evidence of their mistake, the best thing they can do is to make a public acknowledgment of the mistake. In some cases out of ten the injured man will be satisfied with this, while the tenth man will persist in bringing an action. Sometimes a journal makes a bad blunder, and has to pay an awful price for it. The *Evening News*, of Detroit, some years ago charged Judge Kelly with scandalous immorality with precious little evidence to sustain the accusation. The Judge brought his action and recovered \$4,50